

Serial No. 09/398,987

Attorney's Docket
065123.0106

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the sliding loop knot operable for movement along the central portion of the fishing line to allow engaging and disengaging the sliding loop knot with the eye of the fishing device. —

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed August 28, 2001 (Paper No. 20). At the time of the Office Action, Claims 10-22 and 40 and 41 were pending in this Application. Claims 1-9 and 23-39 were previously cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 10-22 and 40-41 were rejected. Claims 40 and 41 have been amended and new claims 43-46 added to further define various aspects of Applicant's invention. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by "*The Uni-Knot*." Claims 17-18, 22, and 41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,835,069 issued to A.J. Flye, Sr. (hereafter "*Flye, Sr.*"). Claims 10, 17-21 and 22 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 41 has been amended to include various features of Applicant's sliding loop knot as shown in Figures 3A, 3B and 3C.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 11-12, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *The Uni-Knot* as applied to Claims 10, 17 above and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,672,701 issued to C.J. Smith (hereafter "*Smith*"). Claims 14-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *The Uni-Knot* as applied to Claim 10 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,336,087 issued to Leon L. Martuch et al. (hereafter "*Martuch et al.*"). Claim 40 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Flye Sr.*, as applied to Claim 11 above, and in further view of *The Uni-Knot*. Claims 11-12, 14, 15 and 17 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

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Claim 40 has been amended to include various features of Applicant's invention as shown in Figures 3A, 3B and 3C.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to acknowledge and consider Reference "X" as included in the Information Disclosure Statement and cited on the PTO Form 1449 submitted September 17, 1999 in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.97 and 1.98. Applicant would like confirmation by the Examiner that the reference was considered by initialing Reference "X" on the enclosed copy page of the PTO Form 1449 received with the Office Action mailed April 6, 2001 (Paper No. 15).

CONCLUSION

Applicant has now made an earnest effort to place this case in condition for allowance in light of the amendments and remarks set forth above. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of Claims 40 and 41 as amended and new claims 43-46.

No fee appears to be due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P. If there are any matters concerning this application that could be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact the Applicant's attorney at 512.322.2599.

Respectfully submitted,
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Version with Markings to Show Changes Made
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IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims _____ have been amended as follows: